WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

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ELECTION 2026 | RACE FOR GOVERNOR

CROWLEY CRUSHES IT



JOHN HART, STATE JOURNAL

Wisconsin Governor-elect David Crowley addresses supporters at an election night watch party in Milwaukee. Crowley's victory marks the first time Democrats have held the office for longer than eight years.

1st Black governor will keep control of office in Democrats' hands

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Democrat David Crowley defeated Republican U.S. Rep. Tom Tiffany in Tuesday's race for Wisconsin governor, ensuring Democrats will hold the battleground state's executive office for another four years.

The Milwaukee County Executive's victory also marks the first time in state history that Democrats have held onto the governor's office for more than eight years straight.

"Tonight, Wisconsin made history," Crowley said in a statement. "Being your next governor is humbling in its own right. I ran to be the governor for all of us. And tonight, that includes everyone who didn't vote for me. I'll listen to you. I'll work for you. And I hope to earn your trust the only way I know how: by showing up and getting results."

Tiffany, of Hazelhurst, conceded shortly before 9:50 p.m. Tuesday, as Crowley was holding a nearly 10-point lead, according to results reported by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. If those margins hold, it would be one of the most lopsided general election victories in recent history in a state notorious for close contests.

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LEGISLATURE | EARLY OUTLOOK

Democrats eye state government trifecta

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The state Legislature is poised to flip to Democrats for the first time in nearly two decades, with at least three seats held by Senate Republicans appearing to flip by comfortable margins and Democrats leading in enough Assembly races to push them over the 50-person threshold for control.

Based on leads held by Democratic candidates as of about 10:15 p.m. Tuesday night, Democrats could pick up as many as four seats, increasing their ranks to 19. One of those could involve the district of one of the Legislature's most powerful members and Republicans, budget committee co-chair Sen. Howard Marklein, R-Spring Green, who is running against Democratic Rep. Jenna Jacobson, D-Oregon, in a heavily redrawn district.

Two of the other Senate seats that could be flipped do not have an incumbent but are currently held by Republicans.

And in the Assembly, Democrats could take up to 52 seats, although many races had not been called as of press time.

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■ **Schools:** *Middleton-Cross Plains voters OK $118.5M operating referendum; Waunakee approves $97.5 building plan.* **A3**

■ **Statewide:** *AG Kaul turns back Toney again; Democrats sweep secretary of state, treasurer offices; tight returns on constitutional amendments.* **A3, A4**

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